

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY SENATOR JOHNS

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Jack Edward Lawton Sr.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 death of Jack Edward Lawton Sr. on April 11, 2016, at the age of eighty-seven.

4 WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was a native and lifelong resident of the area of Sulphur
5 and Corlyss, Louisiana in Calcasieu Parish, where he and his brother owned and operated
6 the Lawton Ranch; and

7 WHEREAS, Jack Lawton and his brother, William Burton Lawton, were born to
8 Joseph and Evelyn Burton Lawton and his brother and their parents predeceased Lawton;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was a 1946 graduate of Sulphur High School where he was
11 a two-time All State football player and a one-time All State basketball player and he, along
12 with his brother, was among the first to be inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 2013;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, as a rancher and entrepreneur, Jack Lawton was extensively involved
15 in the farming, banking, and oil and gas industries, as well as other business ventures; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton's first love was Lawton Ranch in Choupique, Louisiana,
17 of which he was co-owner and he relished the day-to-day business of ranching; and

18 WHEREAS, the Lawton family owned Calcasieu Marine National Bank and the

1 operating company was William T. Burton Industries, which was eventually divided into two
2 companies, one of which was Jack Lawton, L.L.C; and

3 WHEREAS, Jack Lawton remained president of the company until earlier this
4 century, when he relinquished the business to his son and concentrated solely on the ranch;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was known as a generous philanthropist, giving generously
7 to both McNeese State University in Lake Charles and Louisiana State University in Baton
8 Rouge; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1983 Jack Lawton was one of the founders and major financial
10 supporters of the first Louisiana chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association, a non-
11 profit organization that is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Louisiana's
12 marine and animal life and to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future
13 availability of these coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, more than thirty-three years later, the Coastal Conservation Association
16 in Louisiana is an organization that has grown to nearly twenty thousand members across
17 the state; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was also one of the founders and a key financial supporter
19 of the Center for Coastal Conservation which is a coalition of leading advocates for marine
20 recreational fishing and boating dedicated to promoting sound conservation and use of ocean
21 resources by supporting federal legislators who support its goals; and

22 WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was a devoted family man and he leaves his wife, Dorothy
23 "Coonie" Sonnier Lawton, his son Jack Lawton Jr. and his wife Holly Bugg Lawton and four
24 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren to treasure their memories of a loving father,
25 grandfather and great-grandfather; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Lawton was an ardent sportsman and he enjoyed hunting and
27 fishing both in Louisiana, the Southern United States, and around the world; and

28 WHEREAS, the theme of all of Jack Lawton's activities in his life was that of a man
29 who was dedicated to his family and to improving his community, never shirking anything
30 that he saw as his duty as a person committed to education, dedicated to the conservation of

1 the coastal areas of Louisiana, and focusing on the philanthropic needs of his community and
2 his state; and

3 WHEREAS, Jack Lawton was not one to seek the spotlight for himself, but his
4 intelligence, leadership, and penchant for generosity remains an enduring legacy for a
5 rancher, sportsman, conservationist, and businessman of whom it was said "he liked to get
6 things going, but in a low key way".

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
8 does hereby express the sincere condolences upon the death of Jack Edward Lawton Sr. on
9 April 11, 2016, at the age of eighty-seven.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mrs.
11 Dorothy "Coonie" Lawton.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

SR 139 Original

DIGEST
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Johns

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